

Noun Declensions

A. General Rules and Patterns

1. In Latin, almost every noun is grouped into 5 "declensions" - another word for "groups".
2. Each "declension" has two ways to identify itself:
 - The unique 'genitive ending' of all the nouns in its declension
 - The 'Thematic vowel'; The special letter for each declension
3. Below is a table that shows each declension with its Thematic vowel and genitive ending:

Declension	Thematic vowel	Genitive Ending
1st	-a	-ae
2nd	-o	-i
3rd	-i	-is
4th	-u	-ūs
5th	-e	-ei
4. While almost every declension has its special noun gender, it is not an absolute rule - There are exceptions in every declension
 Ex: While the 1st declension is mostly feminine, words like 'navis' are masculine.
5. The only way to properly identify a noun's declension is by finding its genitive ending, and matching it to the table above.

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6. All nouns, when given in a formal definition, will show the following information:

- 1. Nominative Singular form, 2. Genitive Ending, 3. Gender, 4. Definition

Ex. puella, -ae, f. - girl

7. From this formal definition, we can identify puella as a 1st declension noun, because its genitive ending is -ae